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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sSB 994**

#### ***AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CONNECTICUT WINE AT FARMERS' MARKETS AND ESTABLISHING A FARMERS' MARKET WINE PERMIT.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill creates a farmers' market wine sales permit that allows farm wineries to sell wine they manufactured on their premises under a manufacturer's permit at a farmer's market under specified conditions. Under the bill, a municipality may ban, by ordinance or zoning regulation, wine sales at a farmers' market by a farmers' market wine sales permittee.

The law allows liquor permittees to hold only one permit, with specific exceptions. Currently, the holder of a manufacturer's permit for a farm winery can hold an in-state transporter's permit, a wine festival permit, or any combination of such permits. The bill allows him or her to hold a market wine sales permit as well.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011

#### **FARMERS' MARKET WINE SALES PERMIT**

The bill requires the consumer protection commissioner to issue a farmers' market wine sales permit to a farm winery when the permittee submits proof that he or she is in compliance with the farm winery manufacturing permit statute. The farmers' market wine sales permit authorizes the farm winery to sell wine it manufactures at up to three farmers' market locations per year for an unlimited number of appearances. The permittee must (1) have an invitation from the farmers' market; (2) sell wine only by the bottle; and (3) be present, or have an authorized representative present, when wine is sold.

The permit is valid for a year and has an annual fee of \$250, with a \$100 nonrefundable filing fee. It allows wine sales from 8:00 a.m. to

9:00 p.m. on Monday through Saturday, but not on Sunday or when the farmers' market is not open to the public.

The bill allows any town, by town meeting vote or ordinance, reduce the wine selling hours at farmers' markets. It also authorizes any town or municipality, by ordinance or zoning regulation, to prohibit the sale of wine by a farmers' market wine sales permittee at farmers' markets.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Farmers' Markets***

A farmers' market is a cooperative or nonprofit enterprise or association that consistently occupies a given site throughout a season. It must operate principally as a marketplace for farmers to sell Connecticut-grown fresh produce or farm products to consumers. Farm products that are sold must be produced by farmers with the sole purpose of generating a portion of household income.

### ***Related Bill***

sSB 462 (File 215), reported favorably by the General Law Committee, is identical to this bill.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 27      Nay 0      (03/18/2011)